



File Code: 1910

Date: October 24, 2012

Dear Forest Users and Interested Readers:

The Cibola National Forest and Grasslands will be soon begin to revise its 1985 Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Sandia, Mountainair, Magdalena, and Mt. Taylor Ranger Districts. The Cibola is one of the first national forests to start the revision process under the new 2012 Forest Service Planning Rule.

The first steps of the Cibola's revision process are to gather information on the existing conditions and sustainability of the Forest's resources, goods and services, and to anticipate the conditions and trends into the future under the guidance of the 1985 Forest Plan. This information will be compiled into a Forest Assessment Report and will help us determine the areas of the 1985 Plan that need to be revised.

During the assessment phase, we will review and use available public domain data such as: the New Mexico Statewide Natural Resources Assessment, Strategy, and Response Plans; the State Wildlife Action Plan; the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan; numerous biological information systems; other federal, state, tribal, and local government management plans; county, state, and regional air reports; community wildfire protection plans; the University of New Mexico's Bureau of Business and Economic Research report, regional climate change reports, and internal Cibola National Forest and Grasslands data.

The 2012 Planning Rule identifies 15 ecological and socioeconomic topic areas that are to be addressed during the revision process. This is where we need your help. Please review the topic areas below and share your comments, data, and any observations on how the Forest contributes to both current and future social, economic, and ecological sustainability of your community.

1. Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and watersheds
2. Air, soil, and water resources and quality
3. System drivers, including dominant ecological processes, disturbance regimes, and stressors, such as natural succession, wildland fire, invasive species, and climate change; and the ability of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems on the plan area to adapt to change
4. Baseline assessment of carbon stocks
5. Threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, and potential species of conservation concern present in the plan area
6. Social, cultural, and economic conditions
7. Benefits people obtain from the Cibola planning area (ecosystem services like clean air, water, energy, recreation, carbon storage, scenery, forage, fiber, minerals, nutrient cycling, spiritual and cultural values)
8. Multiple uses and their contributions to local, regional, and national economies
9. Recreation settings, opportunities and access, and scenic character
10. Renewable and nonrenewable energy and mineral resources
11. Infrastructure, such as recreational facilities and transportation and utility corridors.
12. Areas of tribal importance
13. Cultural and historic resources and uses, native knowledge and ethics
14. Land status and ownership, use and access patterns
15. Existing designated areas located in the plan area including wilderness and wild and scenic rivers and potential need and opportunity for additional designated areas



Revising the Cibola's forest plan is a community effort. As more people become involved in this process and share their ideas, comments, and suggestions, it will help us create an effective plan to manage the many resources on the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands. To share information with us, you can:

- Go to: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/cibola> and click on the "Contact us" link at the bottom left side of the page. This link has Cibola's contact information and a feedback form to send a message
- Download this comment form and mail or e-mail it to us:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cibola/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fsbdev3_065627
- Send us an e-mail at: cibolamtnsplanrevision@fs.fed.us

The Cibola National Forest and Grasslands is committed to engaging you and keeping you up-to-date on the forest planning process. Some of the ways we will do that is by:

- Hosting public meetings, webinars, or conference calls at key times throughout the planning process. At these events, we'll provide updates and would like to hear what is important to you about the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands. Our first series of public meetings will be held as follows:
 - **Tuesday, November 13, 2012 --- 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
Corona Village Hall; Council Chambers; 461 Main Street; Corona, NM
 - **Tuesday, November 13, 2012 --- 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
UNM Continuing Education; Room C; 1634 University Boulevard; Albuquerque, NM
 - **Wednesday, November 14, 2012 --- 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
Torreon Community Center; 18 Torreon Heights Road East; Torreon, NM
 - **Thursday, November 15, 2012 --- 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
Mountainair Senior Center; 107 North Summit Avenue; Mountainair, NM
 - **Thursday, November 15, 2012 --- 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
Los Vecinos Community Center; 478-1/2 Old Highway 66; Tijeras, NM
 - **Friday, November 30, 2012 --- 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**
Magdalena High School Fine Arts Center; 200 Duggins Drive; Magdalena, NM
- Making presentations to your organizations about the forest plan revision process and listening to issues of particular concern to you relative to the future management of the Forest.
- Regularly updating our website with the latest forest plan revision information.

Finally, if you would like to engage in future workgroups or listening sessions, please send an e-mail to: cibolamtnsplanrevision@fs.fed.us. Please include your name, contact information, and topics that you are interested in.

Please join us in this very important collaborative process. We need your knowledge, feedback, and suggestions to ensure that the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands will have a land and resource management plan that will result in sustainable management of its resources, goods, and services for the next 15 years.

Sincerely,


NANCY ROSE
Forest Supervisor